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Letter from Thomas G. Clemson to Alfred Lee Bishop, 1879

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To the Right Reverend Alfred Lee Bishop in the State of Delaware

[1879]

No. 26.

Dear Sir

Your absence from the United States, of which I was not advised until Mrs McIlwaine your daughter had the kindness to inform me, that you would not be returned to your bishoprick until October 178.

Since that month & presuming that you had returned I did myself the honour to address you another communication to a like purpose, as that which I had written & mentioned above.

My first communication, through inadvertence was informally addressed that way corrected in my last.

My purpose was & still adheres, to ascertain to ascertain whether I was correct in believing that ~~your~~ exalted position which you hold over the State of Delaware extended to the investigation of acts or conduct of which the Episcopal clergy of your diocese, may have been guilty such as the obtaining of money or monies by means such as would be considered a crime by the civil law. My inquiry, addressed to you Revd Sir, is dictated by charity, to avoid necessary exposure which a suit brought in the civil courts might produce. Now am I conscious of having been deficient in form or purpose, & awaits an answer to the objective point to which I seek. viz If the statements be placed in your hands which can be corroborated by testimony undoubtedly be established in the judgement of peers, whether in their case such trial will be observed to the recovery of money surreptitiously obtained denied & retained by parties in your diocese, and parties who pretend to follow the example the meek & lowly Nazarene, the man without sin.

Now am I conscious of having committed any impropriety in

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and cheping you for information about which I am in
ignorance. I beg you to believe Reverend Sir, that I feel
that among men there are grades of motives, and I have
and hope still to act under the obligation that "noblesse oblige"
for as I am a stranger to you I beg to state that I
hold a diploma and the insignia of Grand officer
of the legion of honour, of the order of Leopold, and have
the right to attach ^{to} my signature the letters L. L. & D.
conferred by a learned institution and am a member
of learned societies. Please then to be assured that
I have been despoiled of honest gains, by those who
have been successed acted & even persecuted for means
which I would not further extend, & for years half an order
every life time I have stood between others & ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~certificates~~
and now after having lost every individual member
of my individual family old & too infirm to labour
others have possession of my means of existence & am
treated by those that deprived my self & family of their
proper rights, treated with with silence, without consideration
honour or shame.

Believe me in the distinguished consideration with
which I have the honour to subscribe my self Your most
obed. & humble servant

The original of the above to Bishop Lee was sent to me
from O.O. as refused reception by the bishop

Thos. G. Cleburn